



**PATENT APPLICATION**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Guy AZAM et al. )  
 ) Group Art Unit 3765  
Appln. No. : 09/926,086 )  
 ) Examiner James G. SMITH  
I.A. Filed : December 22, 2000 )  
 ) Confirmation No. 3803  
For : LACE-UP TIGHTENING DEVICE FOR )  
 ) AN ARTICLE OF FOOTWEAR, AND AN )  
 ) ARTICLE OF FOOTWEAR EQUIPPED )  
 ) WITH SUCH DEVICE )

**REPLY UNDER 37 CFR §1.112**  
**TO THE OFFICE ACTION OF NOVEMBER 21, 2003**

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 02 2004**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

In reply to the non-final Office action dated November 21, 2003, the period for response extending to Monday, February 23, 2004, please enter the following amendment.

Upon entry of the amendment, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.